

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE

February 18, 2021

1:32 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator David Wilson, Chair
Senator Shelley Hughes, Vice Chair
Senator Lora Reinbold
Senator Tom Begich

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Mia Costello

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 65

"An Act relating to immunity for consulting physicians, podiatrists, osteopaths, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, dentists, optometrists, and pharmacists."

- MOVED CSSB 65(HSS) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 70

"An Act relating to opioid overdose drugs; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSSB 70(HSS) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 65

SHORT TITLE: LIABILITY CONSULTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) KIEHL

02/03/21	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/03/21	(S)	HSS, JUD
02/16/21	(S)	HSS AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
02/16/21	(S)	Heard & Held
02/16/21	(S)	MINUTE(HSS)

BILL: SB 70

SHORT TITLE: OPIOID OVERDOSE DRUGS

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) WILSON

02/05/21	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/05/21	(S)	HSS
02/16/21	(S)	HSS AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
02/16/21	(S)	Heard & Held
02/16/21	(S)	MINUTE (HSS)

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR JESSE KIEHL, SB 65 Sponsor

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Offered comments on SB 65.

CJ HARRELL, Staff

Senator Jesse Kiehl

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke to an amendment for SB 65.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:32:46 PM](#)

CHAIR DAVID WILSON called the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Hughes, Begich, and Chair Wilson. Senator Reinbold arrived shortly thereafter.

SB 65-LIABILITY CONSULTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

[1:33:13 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 65 "An Act relating to immunity for consulting physicians, podiatrists, osteopaths, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, dentists, optometrists, and pharmacists." He invited bill sponsor Senator Kiehl to the table.

[1:33:46 PM](#)

SENATOR JESSE KIEHL, SB 65 Sponsor, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, said he appreciated the good committee discussion and understands there are some improvements to the bill before the committee.

SENATOR HUGHES asked if the sponsor likes the improvements.

CHAIR WILSON said the committee will get the improvements on the record and then the bill sponsor could speak to them.

[1:34:17 PM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved Amendment 1 [work order 32-LS0002\B.1].

AMENDMENT 1

32-LS0002\B.1
Fisher
2/17/21

OFFERED IN THE SENATE
TO: SB 65

BY SENATOR HUGHES

Page 2, line 14, following "prepared":
Insert "by the consulting health care provider"

CHAIR WILSON objected for purposes of discussion.

SENATOR HUGHES explained that this is the result of the conversation at the last committee. It adds "by the consulting health care provider" to make it clear that if the second provider, not the consulting provider, wrote a report, it would not trigger liability for the consulting provider.

SENATOR KIEHL said the amendment is a good clarification about when the liability shield is triggered.

[1:36:04 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON removed his objection. There being no objection, Amendment 1 passed.

[1:36:16 PM](#)

At ease

[1:36:22 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON reconvened the meeting.

CHAIR WILSON moved Amendment 2 [work order 32-LS0002\B.3].

AMENDMENT 2

32-LS0002\B.3
Fisher
2/17/21

OFFERED IN THE SENATE
TO: SB 65

BY SENATOR WILSON

Page 1, line 2, following "assistants,":
Insert "chiropractors,"

Page 2, line 26, following "physician":
Insert ", chiropractor, "

Page 2, line 31, following "AS 08.64.107,":
Insert "a chiropractor licensed under AS 08.20,"

SENATOR HUGHES objected for purposes of discussion.

CHAIR WILSON said his office spoke to the bill sponsor and medical providers. Chiropractor are medically licensed and provide consultations and they should be included in this legislation. He asked if the bill sponsor had any comments.

1:36:58 PM

CJ HARRELL, Staff, Senator Jesse Kiehl, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, said that Senator Kiehl's office had heard from chiropractors and it does make sense to add them.

1:37:29 PM

SENATOR HUGHES withdrew her objection. There being no objection, Amendment 2 passed.

CHAIR WILSON asked the will of the committee.

1:37:52 PM

SENATOR HUGHES moved SB 65, version 32-LS0002\B, as amended from committee with attached fiscal notes and individual recommendations.

CHAIR WILSON found no objection and CSSB 65(HSS) was reported from the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee.

1:38:08 PM

At ease

SB 70-OPIOID OVERDOSE DRUGS

1:39:52 PM

CHAIR WILSON reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 70 "An Act relating to opioid

overdose drugs; and providing for an effective date." He noted the committee had had an overview of the bill and took public testimony.

[1:40:16 PM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) for SB 70, work order 32-LS0390\B, as the working document.

CHAIR WILSON objected for purposes of discussion. He explained that the CS retains the reporting requirement that was originally adopted in SB 91 in 2017 as requested by the committee in its previous discussions. The committee still has to repeal the old documentation and add a new reporting requirement as the old reporting requirement referenced the opioid epidemic. Since that is ending as an emergency declaration, the reporting language requirement is changed to reference the opioid overdose drug distribution instead.

SENATOR HUGHES asked if the opioid declaration was state or federal.

CHAIR WILSON answered that was a state declaration in SB 91 by former Governor Bill Walker.

SENATOR BEGICH thanked the chair for taking into account the committee comments in the CS.

SENATOR HUGHES said that she appreciated the input from Michael Clarkson of MyHouse in Wasilla regarding this bill.

[1:42:23 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON removed his objection. There being no objection Version B was adopted as the working document.

[1:42:37 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON asked for the will of the committee.

[1:42:45 PM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved to report the committee substitute (CS) for SB 70, work order 32-LS0390\B, with attached fiscal notes and individual recommendations.

CHAIR WILSON Found no objection and reported CSSB 70(HSS) from the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee.

[1:43:59 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Wilson adjourned the Senate Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting at 1:43 p.m.